



The Examiner

Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms

"Serving with Pride and Professionalism"

Volume 7, No. 8

Happy Birthday Medical Service Corps!

August 1999

Softball team proves to be more than just champions

By Dan Barber, Public Affairs Officer
Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms

The Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms intramural softball team returned from the Southwest Region Navy Softball Intramural Championship Tournament in heroic fashion... as champions and lifesavers.

According to Captain Joan M. Huber, commanding officer of the hospital, the team was warming-up before a game on Saturday at Naval Station San Diego, on a field next to the Interstate 5 highway near the Main Street exit, when they witnessed a collision of two vehicles on the freeway.

One vehicle carrying two adults and three toddlers was hit by another vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed causing it to cart-wheel across traffic landing on its roof where it came to rest straddling the two right lanes of traffic.

The hospital's team made up of medical and dental personnel along with the hospital's chaplain sprang into action. Dropping their softball equipment and grabbing-up the team's first-aid equipment, they scaled a six-foot fence topped with barbed wire, then dodging traffic travelling at 70 miles per hour, ran to the rescue of the injured. "Petty Officer Ricky J. Kaebsch ran out in the lanes of traffic and scooped up one of the children who had been thrown from the car saving him from the oncoming traffic," said Huber.

With the team instinctively remembering their medical training they split into groups of two to three each attending to the different victims. "In an impressive show of team-

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Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms Champion Softball Team. From left to right are: HMCM Robert Bettis, Command Master Chief; HN Gene Santos; Lt. Robert Cunnard; HM3 Ricky Krebsch; Lt. Jeff Sperring; HN Dwight Ayres, HM2 Anthony Guzman; HMC Randy Husted; HN Mario Gonzales; HN William Avery; DT2 Joseph Esteves; DT3 Chad Bagwell and Captain Douglas Freer, Naval Hospital Executive Officer. Team members not pictured are: Lt. Dan Dudley and HM3 Chad Johnson.

People of the Quarter named at ceremony

In a recent ceremony held on the hospital's Quarterdeck, several people were honored as People of the Quarter for the period April 1, 1999 to June 30, 1999.

Lieutenant Frank P. Pearson, MSC, of the Physical Therapy Department was one of two officers who tied for the honor of Officer of the Quarter.

Pearson's Letter of Commendation reads in part, "As an outstanding Naval Officer, Physical Therapist and dynamic leader you are a positive role model to all with whom you serve. Your zeal for constant process improvement and total commitment to qual-

ity patient care was evidenced through your establishment and continued improvement of the Electroneuromyography (EMG) program at this command. This service for active duty and dependents has resulted in a savings of over \$12,000 per quarter in supplemental care costs. Your recent certification by the International Weight Training Association helped ensure state-of-the-art rehabilitative service to Marines and Sailors. Actively working with the Red Cross Volunteer Program, your upgrading of the solicitation process into an on-line/e-mail format and de-

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Corpsmen Set Example

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Community Service

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Hard Chargers

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From the Desk of the CG...

Setting the example; our Navy Corpsmen

Occasionally, I come across a police blotter with the words "no reports of incidents today." If we had no incidents, it means we had a safe night or weekend: no one got killed on our highways returning from liberty, no one was injured while training aboard the Combat Center, and no husband or wife was victimized by their spouse. I'm sure you get the idea.

I think it is reasonable to expect clean blotters, or blotters with nothing significant to report. I refuse to accept what I see most of the time as the norm. Blotters that list from A to Z every imaginable crime, deviance and tragedy.

I have observed a model segment of our MCAGCC family...one certainly worthy of praise and emulation. This announcement may surprise some of you, but, I suspect that most will say, "yeah, I knew that." I'm talking about our Navy brothers and sisters. Disciplined, mature, and mission focused, our Navy shipmates are here to support us, mostly in the form of medical care. Some are directly responsible for giving us spiritual and moral support...you may recognize them as your unit chaplains, or the RPs who support them.

Look a little closer, and you'll see another kind of Sailor. Their numbers are small, but their impact on our lives is significant. I'm referring to Navy engineers. I'm sure I've left a category of Sailor out, and if so, forgive me. However, it is the enlisted Sailor I'm most interested in recognizing today, especially our corpsmen.

The fact that you rarely see our corpsmen with negative entries on our police blotters reinforces something I have known for a very long time. These smart, dedicated, and enthusiastic Sailors take great pride in their work. Their professionalism and maturity is refreshing. They have to be technically proficient...our lives depend on it. Almost instinctively they seem to sense that unanticipated or unplanned absences could negatively effect their command's mission. They're right, of course. We only have so many corpsmen to serve as x-ray technicians, computer specialists, laboratory technicians, dental technicians, or "docs," as we affectionately call them. We don't have enough of them. You'd better believe their presence would be missed if they couldn't make it to work.

I've had my eyes on this special group for quite some time. I remember being in an infantry company, and other infantry units, and always seeing our corpsmen doing their duty. They never hesitated, no matter how difficult the mission. They didn't go to Parris Island or to San Diego for boot camp, but they were always disciplined, well-trained and highly motivated. At a glance, they look like Marines. Many opt to wear our uniform.

Now, before you say it...yes, there are exceptions. There are some Sailors who don't exactly measure up. But, that's my point. The exceptions are just that—exceptions. You can almost take their professionalism for granted if you aren't careful. I don't ever recall being concerned about the quality of our corpsmen support. When there was a problem, Navy leaders, mostly petty officers and chief petty officers, were on top of things. They invariably had the problem well in hand.

At every duty station, I have run across corpsmen who have stood out. I was reminded of this last week when I met Mr. Bob Bush, a former Navy corpsman and a recipient of the Medal of Honor during World War II. Mr. Bush was the guest of honor at our recent Hospital Corpsmen's Birthday celebration. He was also one of the featured people in Tom Brokaw's book, "The Greatest Generation." Mr. Bush's Medal of Honor citation reads:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Medical Corpsman with a rifle company, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Jima, Ryukyu Islands, 2 May 1945. Fearlessly braving the fury of artillery, mortar, and machine-gun fire from strongly entrenched hostile positions, Bush constantly and unhesitatingly moved from one casualty to another to attend the wounded falling under the enemy's murderous barrages. As the attack passed over a ridge top, Bush was advancing to administer blood plasma to a Marine officer lying wounded on the skyline when the Japanese launched a savage counterattack. In this perilously exposed position, he resolutely maintained the flow of life-giving plasma. With the bottle held high in one hand, Bush drew his pistol with the other and fired into the enemy's ranks



Major General C.L. Stanley
until his ammunition was expended. Quickly seizing a discarded carbine, he trained his fire on the Japanese charging point-blank

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The **EXAMINER** editor would like to thank all those who participated in this edition.

From the Desk of the CO...

Community Service is good for all

Sometimes it is very hard for military personnel and their families to "put down roots" because we move so often. I find it hard to answer the simple question, "Where are you from?" Should I respond with my home of record? My current duty station? Where I was born? Where I vote? Where I moved from last? It can be very confusing! As a result, we don't always develop a sense of loyalty to the community we are temporarily residing in.

It is important that we realize that wherever we serve, we have a responsibility to the community we live in. For us, that would be both the Combat Center community and the local area around Twentynine Palms. As good citizens, we have an obligation to contribute to the betterment of our communities.

Two of our shipmates have recently received the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. Petty Officer 2nd Class Anita M. Bouges, from the Manpower Section, received it for volunteer work that she performed while stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Chief Randy S. Husted, from Education and Training, received it for his volunteer work with the city of Twentynine Palms to build the new bicycle trails. Both of these outstanding Sailors improved the

quality of life for all of the citizens, both military and civilian, of Corpus Christi and Twentynine Palms.

Captain Jean N. Brakebill and the members of the command's Optometry Department, Lt. Luis M. Perez, Petty Officers 3rd Class Robert P. Gross, and Encarnacion Nunez-Flores and Ms Joseph A. Taijeron, were recently honored by the Twentynine Palms Rotary Club for volunteering their time to screen school children for visual problems. As a result, 88 children were diagnosed with some visual changes that required glasses, and 12 were identified with such severe visual compromise that they could not see the chalkboard in a classroom or read a textbook. As a result of our shipmates' volunteer work, all of the children received glasses from the Rotary Club and many are able to read for the first time.

The Petty Officers Association has been active in volunteering to put together some of the activities for the Twentynine Palms Pioneer Days, celebrated in October every year. Many members volunteer throughout the year to coordinate road races and other athletic activities. The Chief Petty Officers volunteer to clean up and maintain a two-mile stretch of Route 62.

Many of you work with the local schools



Captain Joan M. Huber, NC, USN

or your local church as board members, coaches, and support personnel coordinating activities for the members. I am sure many of you provide volunteer services that I am not even aware of. All of this helps make the community we live in, no matter how temporarily, a better place for all of us. We should all strive to leave a community better for our being there.

What have you done to be a good citizen?

Re-up...



MS3 David T. Johns reenlists at the hospital's Quarterdeck.

Letters....

Quality of Care

Dear Captain Huber,

I am writing this letter concerning the quality of care that I received at Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms during my pregnancy. I was a high-risk patient and required special attention and monitoring. There are four departments of the hospital that I would like to compliment.

First, I was under the care of Dr. Todd Griffin at the OB/GYN clinic. Dr. Griffin always answered my questions and addressed my concerns. He made sure that I received all of the testing and monitoring possible to ensure a healthy pregnancy. I also saw many of the other doctors from the OB clinic that helped out with the non-stress tests and ultrasounds. They were always on the same page as my doctor and worked professionally together as a team to obtain a com-

mon goal.

Secondly, I visited the labor deck twice weekly for the last few months of my pregnancy. The staff was courteous and polite. They never made me feel like a burden, and in fact encouraged me to come in at any time if I had any concerns. They were very thorough in making sure that my needs were met.

Third, the care that I received in the hospital after delivery in the MIW ward was of excellent standards. The nurses were caring and understanding. They all are very knowledgeable in their field.

Finally, by being a high-risk patient there were several labs that I had to have done. The staff members at the lab were always friendly and proficient at their job.

Thanks again for providing military families with outstanding care.

*Sincerely,
Michelle Blount*

Chaplain's Corner...

Resting in His Shade

By Lieutenant Daniel Dudley, CHC, USNR
Naval Hospital Chaplain

"**T**he Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night." (Psalms 121:5,6)

I am learning that words take on different meanings depending on the context in which they are used. Let us take for example the word shade. Mention the word shade to someone that lives in Fairbanks, Alaska and then again to someone who lives in the luxurious and always sunny city of 29 Palms and you will find that the word takes on different levels of meaning depending on one's geographic location. I can affirm that for me personally the word shade has taken on a whole new meaning thanks to my detailer.

As spring has turned into summer here in Twentynine Palms, I have noticed that the temperature for my lunchtime run has increased. As the temperatures have risen so has my keen awareness of all the shade trees

in a three-mile proximity of the Hospital. The hotter the temperature gets the more refreshing each little patch of shade becomes.

I was amazed at what a difference and how much relief could be found in running just three or four steps in the shadow of a tree

A couple of weeks ago, I persevered through one of those hot, desert, late morning runs. The farther into the run I got, the more intense the heat had become. I had just left a wide-open stretch and was heading into a housing area. It was there that I found patches of shade from a variety of shade trees. I was amazed at what a difference and how much relief could be found in running just three or four steps in the shadow of a tree.

Each time that I entered a shaded area a scripture in Isaiah came to my mind. "For thou hast been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shel-



Lieutenant Daniel Dudley
ter from the storm and a shade from the heat."(Isa 25:4)

On July 2nd we had a wonderful command family picnic. The picnic started at 8 a.m. and by 10 a.m. it was starting to get warm. I had picked a spot early to set up my chair but in a matter of 45 minutes I moved my chair to follow the shade. Before the picnic had ended I had moved my chair three times to keep up with the shade. The areas of shade dictated where the masses would gather. It kept us all in close proximity to one another. Our hearts went out to those cooking the food without the benefit of shade.

Just as shade is a great comfort in the desert heat, so too is God's presence when things in our lives start to heat up. God's shadow provides protection and comfort from the scorching heat that comes our way. He is a Shelter to run to when the storms of life are headed our way. My heart goes out to those who get caught in the storm without his shelter or take on the heat without seeking to rest in his shade.

Hail and Farewell

Welcome Aboard

Lt. T. Farrell	Lt. J. Young
Ensign S. Brant	Ensign J. Porton
Lt M. Satterlee	Lt.j.g. C. Cabradillia
Lt.Cmdr. G. Labenz	Lt.j.g. C. Weaver
Lt.j.g. I. Dunez	HM3 S. Chang
Lt. S. Seagram	HM2 R. Romero
Lt. K. Loomis	HN J. Najera
Lt. T. Walsh	MSC G. Pena
Lt. M. May	HMC M. Carson
Lt. S. Cruz	HR C. Ward
Lt.j.g. A. Scheunemann	

Farewell

Lt.Cmdr. G. Pearce	HMC C. Abayan
Lt.j.g. G. Knapp	HM1 J. Macias
Lt.Cmdr. J. Grubbs	HM3 M. Farruggia
Cmdr. T. Mock	HM3 L. Santos
Cmdr. C. Mock	HM3 M. Santos
Lt. M. Davis	HM2 T. Purdy
Lt.j.g. S. Parker	HM2 T. Purdy
Lt.j.g. T. Davis	HM3 K. Wiggins
HM1 H. Fayloga	

New Family Member

Ramirez Baby Boy

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jose and

Celesina Ramirez are proud to announce the birth of their son, Xhavier Jemuell Ramirez, who was born at Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms, Calif. at 5:30 p.m., July 11, 1999.

At birth, Xhavier weighed seven pounds ten ounces and measured 19.4 inches in length.

Congratulations.

Honorary Desert Rats...



From left to right, HM2 Peggy S. Vanier, HM3 Tanya R. Keeling and HM3 Cynthia A. Pantazes, all of Military Sick Call receive their Desert Rat Certificates.

Here's To Your Health...

Tips on saving your skin

It's not hard for your skin to dry up quickin this desert heat! Make sure you take some extra precautions.

Your skin is the largest organ of your body, and it deserves a little respect. Here are some valuable pointers in keeping your skin vital and healthy.

Skin Care

Healthy skin, both young and old, remoisturizes itself continuously. But dry skin doesn't retain moisture well, and this inability to retain moisture worsens with age, cold weather, low humidity, and exposure to chemicals.

What is the answer? Daily application of a long-lasting skin moisturizer that can penetrate the upper layers of the skin.

Try wearing rubber gloves when your hands are in soapy water, keeping your bathing times brief (water evaporates quickly), taking your skin's natural moisture with it), and avoiding extra-hot water when you bathe, which can speed up the depletion of the skin's essential oils.

If your skin is still too dry after taking these steps, it's time to consult a dermatologist.

Protection from the Sun

Exposure to the sun should be balanced. Too little sun is almost dangerous as too much.

Your skin produces vitamin D, an essential nutrient, when exposed to the sun, the sunlight can help relieve psoriasis and acne. But many people over do it. That's why the rates of skin cancer and other skin problems, such as more rapidly aging skin, are on the rise.

If you sunburn easily, you should not even get a tan. If you do get sunburned, avoid getting overheated, because the skin cannot perspire normally for two weeks after healing.

Some deodorant soaps, perfumes, antibiotics, diuretics, tranquilizers, and oral contraceptives can also make your skin more sensitive to the sun's harmful rays.

If you must be out in the sun, liberally apply a sunscreen lotion to the exposed parts to your skin, the higher amount of protection the better(indicated by a higher "SPF" number). Also wear hats, sunglasses, long-

sleeved shirts, full length pants, and socks.

How Diet and Exercise Effect your Skin

Dermatologists agree that aerobic exercise can help keep the skin looking young. It stimulates blood flow into the skin, helping to form new skin cells more quickly. It also causes the skin to renew itself with its own natural oils and moisture, inhabiting the results of dried out skin cells: wrinkles.

Regular exercise keeps the skin supple and flexible, so that it doesn't crack from inelasticity.

The Effects of Smoking on your Skin

A smoker's skin ages and wrinkles prematurely. It is ravaged both from the inside and the outside, because cigarette smoke displaces oxygen in the surrounding air and the blood that feeds the skin. Skin cells that can't "breathe" eventually die.

If you're like most people, you want to look your best. Practice these skinsavers now and you, too, can join the ranks of those people who never look their age.

Source: Parlay International

From the Desk of the Career Counselor...

Do you want to be an Officer?

Package submission for the following Officer Programs is fast approaching.

Now is the best time to start so you can be on your way to becoming a Naval Officer.

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps

Selected applicants for the NROTC Scholarship Program are awarded scholarships through a highly competitive national selection process, and receive full tuition, books, fees and other financial benefits at many of the country's leading colleges and universities. Upon graduation, midshipmen are commissioned as officers in the unrestricted line Naval Reserve or Marine Corps Reserve.

Requirements

Age: Must be less than 27 years of age on June 30 of the year in which you are eligible for graduation and commissioned status (waiverable up to 29).

SAT: 530V, 520M ACT: 22E, 22M within last 2 years.

Submission Deadline: 4 year: Jan. 1
2 year: Mar. 15

U.S. Naval Academy (USNA)

Requirements

Age: 17-23 years of age July 1 of the year entering USNA, no waivers.

SAT: 1050 combined ACT: 46 combined, taken within the last 2 years.

Submission Deadline: Jan. 31 of year of desired entry.

Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST)

BOOST program offers advanced academic preparation and an opportunity to earn a college scholarship. BOOST prepares se-

lected high school graduates, Naval reservists and active duty Navy and Marine Corps personnel to become eligible for NROTC scholarships to civilian colleges and universities or appointments to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

Requirements

Age: NROTC option-Less than 22 years of age June 30 of the year of entry (waiverable up to 36 months).

SAT: 470V, 490M (waiverable to 430/440) ACT: 18E, 20M

Submission Deadline: October 1

Medical Service Corps IPP (MSC)

The MSC IPP is a commissioning pathway for enlisted (Regular Navy or Naval Reserve on active duty) paygrades E-5 through E-9 of all ratings into the Medical Service Corps. This program is divided into the Health Care Administration section and the Physician Assistant section.

Requirements

Age: Applicants for Physician Assistant (PA) cannot be older than age 33 by Sept. 30, 2000 (no age waivers).

Health Care Administration (HCA) applicants must be able to accept a commission prior to reaching their 35th Birthday (no age waivers).

College: PA IPP applicants – minimum of 60 semester hours of transferable college credit with a minimum GPA of 2.5 is required.

HCA applicants must have or must have earned a qualifying baccalaureate degree by May 2000. A course completion plan with expected graduation date is required for

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Happy Birthday...



Ensign Michael F. Reny



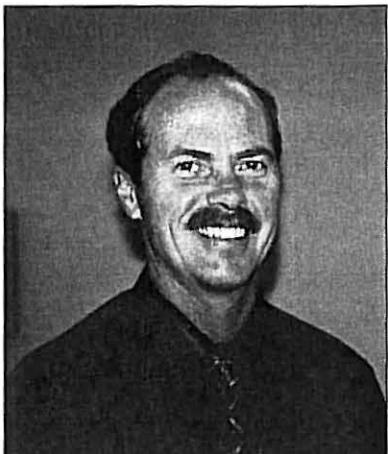
Lt. Cmdr. Kathy F. Goldberg



Lt. Leeann Graham



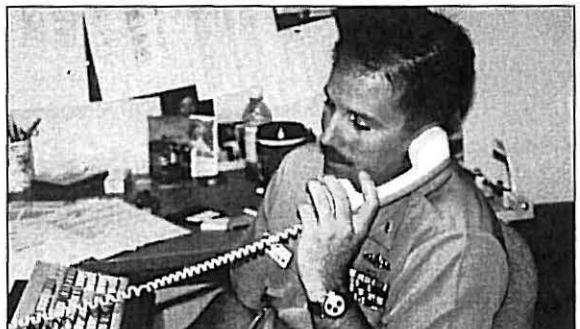
Lt. Kenneth J. Arlinghaus



Lt. Cmdr. Mike Holdridge, USNR



Lt.j.g. Albert C. Loui



Lt. Frank P. Pearson



Lt. Cmdr. Stephen A. Talmadge



Lt. Christopher A. Kelly



Lt. Denise N. Holdridge



Lt. Micki Baker



Lt. Cmdr. Kurt S. Milson



Lt. Luis M. Perez



Lt.j.g. Bobby W. Cherry



Lt. Mathew W. Killmeyer



Lt.j.g. Jeffrey Hayworth



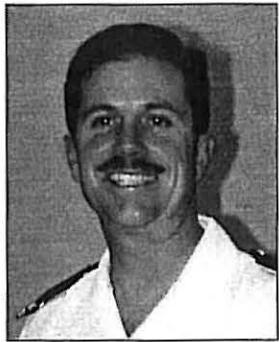
Lt. Russell L. Wales

...Medical Service Corps

PEOPLE...

Continued from page 1

development of a more comprehensive interview process ensured a more satisfactory match of the volunteer with the requesting department. As the Command Savings Bond Representative, Lt. Frank P. Pearson you brought this essential program's benefits to all Sailors in the command."



Lt. Frank P. Pearson

Lieutenant Ramona L. Jordan, NC, Division Officer of the Pediatrics Clinic is the other officer selected in a tie as Officer of the Quarter.

Jordan's Letter of Commendation reads in part, "You have consistently performed your assigned duties at the highest standards while continuing to be involved in numerous collateral duties and advancement opportunities. As the Division Officer of the Pediatrics Clinic, you have been responsible

for the overall organization of the clinic, maintaining near 100 percent patient access standards and high levels of patient satisfaction month after month for over 7,000 pediatric beneficiaries, despite continuous staffing changes. You painstakingly organized a traveling Pediatric Subspecialty Clinic, allowing pediatric patients and their families access to the highest levels of care despite our geographic isolation. As coordinator of the Nurse of the Day watchbill, you assure essential supervision and stability in after-hours nursing services. You continue to seek opportunities to share your experience and knowledge through education programs throughout the command while earning further educational credits through correspondence and local courses."

Petty Officer 2nd Class John A. Pepas,



Lt. Ramona L. Jordan

of the Emergency Nursing Services Department, has been selected as Senior Sailor of the Quarter.

In addition, Pepas has been selected for further honors as the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center's Senior Sailor of the Quarter.

Pepas' Letter of Commendation reads in part, "As Leading Petty Officer, Emergency Nursing Services Department, you supervise

Please see PEOPLE on next page

EXAMPLE...

Continued from page 2

over the hill, accounting for six of the enemy despite his own serious wounds and the loss of one eye suffered during his desperate battle in defense of the helpless man. With the hostile force finally routed, he calmly disregarded his own critical condition to complete his mission, valiantly refusing medical treatment for himself until his officer patient had been evacuated, and collapsing only after attempting to walk to the battle aid station. His daring initiative, great personal valor, and heroic spirit of self-sacrifice in service of others reflect great credit upon himself and enhanced the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

This is the type of military spirit our Navy Corpsmen aboard the Combat Center display on a daily basis as they care for our MCAGCC family. I invite our Marine leaders to join me in wishing our hospital corpsmen a Happy Birthday! While I did that publicly last week with a brief birthday message, it's something that we should all take time out of our busy schedule to do personally.

I've been thinking about our corpsmen a lot lately, mainly because I'm so impressed with their all encompassing professionalism and maturity. It's the kind of professionalism and maturity that is needed as the Navy and Marine Corps team prepares to face the challenges of a new century.

I agree with our Commandant when he says that hospital corpsmen have earned the respect of each and every Marine. Wherever the Marine Corps has fought for our Nation, our "docs," and other Naval support personnel, have been there for us. From our first campaign together more than 200 years ago, to Bosnia, their stellar devotion to duty and loyalty has always been unwavering. Thanks, Shipmates, for being there when we needed you the most. Semper Fi!

SOFTBALL...

Continued from page 1

work, they quickly evaluated all six victims' airways, breathing, circulation and neuro status," said Huber. "They stopped the bleeding, immobilized injuries, and instituted spinal precautions," she added.

Those involved with assisting the accident victims are: Chief Randy S. Husted; Hospital Corpsmen William O. Avery; Dwight J. Ayers; Dental Technicians Chad A. Bagwell and Joe R. Estevez of the 23rd Dental Co; Hospitalman Apprentice Mario S. Gonzales; Petty Officer 2nd Class Anthony R. Guzman; Petty Officer 3rd Class Chad R. Johnson; and Hospitalman Gene R. Santos

With Chaplain Daniel D. Dudley's help, the team secured the accident site, diverted traffic and protected the victims until the California Highway Patrol arrived. They continued to comfort and minister to the victims until the fire department and paramedics arrived. According to Huber, Lt. Robert D. Cunard, a family practice doctor at the hospital, moved from one victim to another directing the interventions and worked with the paramedics when they arrived.

Once paramedics arrived and began to move the victims out of the roadway, the hospital's softball team assisted with getting everyone extricated from the vehicles, stabilized, on backboards, and carried to waiting ambulances. Within 20 minutes, all the victims had been evaluated, stabilized, and transported to a number of hospitals. "Without a doubt, these professionals saved people's lives that day," said Huber.

The Naval Hospital softball team was representing the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms in the SOPAC softball tournament in San Diego this past weekend, June 26-27.

When the final patient was loaded into an ambulance, the team returned to the softball field to an ovation from their opponents, the crew of the USS Milius (DDG 69). "The team was a little slower getting back over the fence and the barbed wire, probably because they didn't have the benefit of adrenaline on the return trip," Huber said. The hospital team won that game along with all of the others over the weekend, becoming the Southwestern Region Navy Intramural Softball Champions for 1999.

PEOPLE...

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HM2 John A. Pepas

the day-to-day operations of 19 Emergency Department enlisted personnel, ensuring 24-hour coverage to all MCAGCC beneficiaries. Assigned as the Command Ambulance Coordinator, you are responsible for all training evolutions for two FAP Marines and providing ambulance coverage for numerous base functions. A team player in every sense of the word, you monitored the Command Remedial PRT Program and participated in the Hospital Corps Birthday Committee. As Director of the 14th Annual Ridge Run, you raised more than \$800 and coordinated logistical and medical support for over 100 participants and volunteers. Striving for self-improvement, you completed two college courses and two correspondence courses during your off-duty time."

Petty Officer 3rd Class William F. Hayes, of the Family Health Ambulatory Nursing Services Department, has been selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter.

Also, Hayes has been selected for further honor as the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center's Junior Sailor of the Quarter.

Hayes' Letter of Commendation reads in part, "As Leading Petty Officer for Family Health Ambulatory Nursing Services, you demonstrate professionalism and dedication through your exceptional leadership, comprehensive professional knowledge and outstanding military bearing. You flawlessly manage four departmental OPTARS in excess of \$50,000 and supervise 20 Corpsmen in four separate departments. An active member of the Command Retention Team, you completed over ten retention interviews and were instrumental in the reenlistment

of two staff members. Your desire to excel is clearly evident by the time and effort you devoted to the Command Remedial PRT Program, the Hospital Corps Birthday and Navy Birthday Ball Committees, and the Joshua Tree National Park Search and Rescue Team. Always striving for self-improvement, you completed the 'High Angle Rescue,' 'High Angle First Responder,' and 'Desert Survival' courses on your off-duty hours."

Tina K. Garrett of the Management Information Department, has been selected as Senior Civilian of the Quarter.

Garrett's Letter of Commendation reads in part, "While assigned to the Management Information Department, you have demonstrated exceptional professionalism and exemplary devotion to duty. Your enthusiasm and genuine concern in providing the highest quality of customer service to staff personnel has been highly impressive. Your significant skills and abilities and your eagerness to assist your shipmates in all aspects of managing the Customer Support Desk have come to be heavily relied upon and contributes greatly to the improved services provided by the Management Information Department."

Cynthia A. Marshall, Secretary for the Radiology Department, has been named as Civilian of the Quarter.

Marshall's Letter of Commendation reads in part, "As Secretary for the Radiology Department, you demonstrated exceptional professionalism and devotion to duty. Your motivation to excel and intense desire to de-



HM3 William F. Hayes

velop new skills and expand your value to the hospital propelled you to learn to transcribe for the Radiology Department. You enthusiastically volunteered to acquire the skills demanded to transcribe over 60

radiology reports per day. As a result, the Radiology Department was able to provide timely, accurate reports on the radiology exams provided to over 3,600 patients, which greatly reduced the anxiety of patients and improved the quality of care that Primary Care Managers were able to provide."

Anna Lawson, Red Cross Volunteer in

the OB/GYN Clinic has been selected as Volunteer of the Quarter.

Lawson's Letter of Commendation reads in part, "Your enthusiasm, and dedication over the past 37 years to Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms has contributed significantly to providing quality medical care. As a medical assistant and greeter in the OB/GYN Clinic for the last eight years, you filed 200 to 300 medical documents per week and provided a friendly and comfortable atmosphere for our patients. Through your devotion to duty, commitment to timely and accurate completion of assigned tasks, and your friendly demeanor, you have come to be regarded as an inspiration by your fellow members of the hospital staff."



Anna Lawson

COUNSELOR...—

Continued from page 4

HCA applicants not possessing a qualifying degree by application deadline date. Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECP)

MECP is an excellent opportunity for enlisted (USN/USMC/USMCR-AR) to earn a Baccalaureate degree in nursing and an active duty commission in the Navy Nurse Corps.

Requirement

Age: At least 18 years of age must earn commission prior to 35th Birthday (waiverable up to 40th)

Active Duty Requirements: At least 3 years as of January of the year board meets.

College: Minimum of 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours with 2.5 GPA or better, must complete the program within 36 months.

Submission Deadline: October 1, 1999

If you can not meet the deadline this year don't give up, these programs are offered year round and the submission month will most likely stay the same. If you are interested in these programs and meet the minimum requirements contact HMC Banting at extension 2383.

Naval Hospital...





... Hard Chargers

More Hard Chargers...



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